

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LAGOS 00779 211700Z

20

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 FEA-01 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01

CIAE-00 CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FPC-01 H-02

INR-07 INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04

USIA-06 SAM-01 OES-03 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00

PA-01 PRS-01 /100 W

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R 201705Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBARSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WARHDC 2930

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LOURENCO MARQUES

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

698

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMCONSUL KADUNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 779

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PAGE 02 LAGOS 00779 211700Z

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ECON, ENRG, XA, OAU, AO, NI, US

SUBJ: OBASANJO AND GARBA ADDRESS ON FOREIGN POLICY:
OBASANJO WARNS ON OIL

SUMMARY: BOTH CHIEF OF STAFF OBASANJO AND MEA COMMISSIONER GARBA USED SENIOR OFFICERS' TRAINING COURSE AT IBADAN LAST WEEK AS FOREIGN POLICY FORUM. WHILE GARBA STUCK TO POSITIVE STATEMENTS NIGERIA'S AIMS IN AFRICA, OBASANJO LASHED OUT IN THINLY VEILED ATTACK AT U.S. AND CLOSED WITH HINT OF USING OIL AS POLITICAL WEAPON. CONTRAST IN SPEECHES INDICATIVE OF POSSIBLE DIFFERENCES WITHIN FMG INNER CIRCLE WITH COMMENTS OF OBASANJO PROBABLY MORE REFLECTIVE OF VIEWS THAT HAVE COME TO THE FORE AS A RESULT OF ANGOLA. WHILE RASH MOVES TO NATIONALIZE OIL COMPANY OPERATIONS UNLIKELY, FMG MAY WELL CONSIDER WAYS TO EXERCISE GREATER CONTROL OVER WHERE NIGERIAN CRUDE IS SOLD. END SUMMARY

1. IN PAPER READ ON HIS BEHALF TO SENIOR OFFICERS' COURSE JANUARY 14, GARBA TREATED FOREIGN POLICY IN PRIMARILY FUNDAMENTAL AND PHILOSOPHICAL TERMS. HE REITERATED NIGERIAN POLICY STILL UNDER IN-DEPTH REVIEW. HE HAMMERED AWAY ON THE QTE UNCOMPROMISING SUPREMACY OF NIGERIA'S NATIONAL INTEREST UNQTE WHICH SHOULD BE PURSUED WITH VIGOUR AND DEDICATION (BUT NOT RECKLESSNESS). NIGERIA SHOULD ASSUME A MORE ASSERTIVE AND DYNAMIC POSTURE IN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS. GARBA REPORTEDLY DID NOT HARANGUE HIS AUDIENCE ON PERCEIVED INIQUITIES U.S. AND OTHER WESTERN POWERS. RATHER, HE CONTENTED HIMSELF WITH GENERAL RECITATION NIGERIA'S WELL KNOWN AND LONG-STANDING POSITIONS ON COLONIALISM, SELF-DETERMINATION AND THE NEED TO EFFECT DEMOCRATIC AND MULTI-RACIAL SOCIETIES IN SOUTH AFRICA, NAMIBIA AND ZIMBABWE.

2. OBASANJO'S SPEECH (WHICH HE DELIVERED PERSONALLY) TO OFFICERS WAS IN MARKED CONTRAST IN BOTH THRUST AND TONE. LIKE GARBA, HE BEGAN WITH REITERATION OF FUNDAMENTALS: THE ESSENTIALS OF AN EFFECTIVE FOREIGN POLICY ARE A CLEAR DELINEATION OF NATIONAL INTERESTS AND A DETERMINED EFFORT TO PURSUE SUCH INTERESTS. SUCH LABELS AS NON-ALIGNMENT, HOWEVER, HAD IN THE PAST BEEN USED AS EXCUSE FOR DOING NOTHING. NIGERIA CANNOT (AND WILL NOT) SIT ON FENCE ON IMPORTANT
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PAGE 03 LAGOS 00779 211700Z

ISSUES TO DETRIMENT ITS IMAGE AND INTEREST, PARTICULARLY ON MATTERS AFFECTING AFRICA.

3. OBASANJO THEN GOT DOWN TO BUSINESS. ANGOLA, HE SAID, IS ONE SUCH CRITICAL ISSUE INVOLVING NIGERIA'S NATIONAL INTEREST. QTE THE INTEREST OF NIGERIA HAS ALWAYS BEEN AND ALWAYS WILL BE THE LIBERATION OF AFRICA INCLUDING ANGOLA FROM POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC DOMINATION. UNQTE. THERE COULD BE NO REVERSAL FMG STANCE ON

ANGOLA. OBASANJO THEN MADE STATEMENT WHICH, WHILE NOT NAMING US, CARRIED THE FLAVOR OF HEAD OF STATE MUHAMMED'S PUBLIC RESPONSE TO FORD LETTER. QTE IT IS VERY UNCHARITABLE OF THOSE (COUNTRIES), THROUGH BLACKMAIL AND VICIOUS PROPAGANDA, TO EQUATE OUR STAND ON ANGOLA TO COMMITMENT AND ALIGNMENT WITH ONE SIDE IN THE IDEOLOGICAL COLD WAR. AS THEY KNOW VERY WELL AND SHOW, IN PRACTICE THROUGH THEIR OWN SHIFTING ALLIANCE IN THEIR NATIONAL INTEREST, IN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS THERE ARE NO PERMANENT FRIENDS BUT PERMANENT INTERESTS UNQTE.

4. OBASANJO THEN HINTED AT USING OIL AS POLITICAL WEAPON. NIGERIA, HE SAID, QTE MIGHT SOONER OR LATER TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE TREMENDOUS IMPORTANCE OF OIL UNQTE. LARGE INTERNATIONAL OIL COMPANIES, WHICH ACCORDING TO OBASANJO ARE MOSTLY OWNED BY UNITED STATES, POSE A THREAT TO OIL PRODUCING COUNTRIES. SUCH COMPANIES ARE NOT QTE GUARANTORS OF THE INTEREST UNQTE OF OIL PRODUCING NATIONS AND BEST SOLUTION THIS SITUATION WOULD BE FOR QTE OIL PRODUCERS AND CONSUMERS TO BE RECONCILED THROUGH GOVERNMENT AND POLITICAL ACTION. UNQTE.

5. COMMENT: TWO SPEECHES SHOW NIGERIA REMAINS DETERMINED TO MAINTAIN PRESENT HARD LINE ON SOUTHERN AFRICAN ISSUES. DIFFERENCES IN CONTENT AND TONE GARBA'S AND OBASANJO'S REMARKS INTRIGUING. GARBA'S REMARKS REFLECT RELATIVELY SUBDUED, NON-BAITING LINE, WHILE OBASANJO'S WERE GOOD DEAL MORE EMOTIONALLY PROVOCATIVE WHILE OBASANJO'S REMARKS LIKELY REPRESENT HIS OWN GUT FEELINGS, THEY COULD FORECAST FURTHER ANTI-U.S. BLASTS, PARTICULARLY IF CONTINUED US INVOLVEMENT IN ANGOLAN DEVELOPMENTS SHOULD BE PERCEIVED BY FMG AS CHALLENGE TO NIGERIA.

6. THIS IS FIRST TIME WE HAVE HEARD TOP ECHELON LEADER PUBLICLY
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PAGE 04 LAGOS 00779 211700Z

ISSUE EVEN A VEILED THREAT TO USE OIL AS A POLITICAL WEAPON. COMING AS IT DOES FROM NUMBER TWO MEMBER FMG HIERARCHY, SUCH THREAT MUST BE TREATED WITH SOME SERIOUSNESS. IF NIGERIA WANTS TO USE OIL AS POLITICAL WEAPON TO PROMOTE ITS FOREIGN POLICY, THIS WOULD NOT NECESSARILY INVOLVE FURTHER NATIONALIZATION BUT COULD MEAN FMG IS CONSIDERING WAYS IT MIGHT ASSERT GREATER CONTROL OVER WHICH CONSUMING COUNTRIES GET NIGERIAN OIL, DEPENDING ON POSITIONS THOSE COUNTRIES' GOVERNMENTS TAKE ON FOREIGN POLICY ISSUES OF INTEREST TO NIGERIA.

7. WE UNDERSTAND SEVERAL OTHER POSSIBLY IMPORTANT PAPERS/ ADDRESSES DELIVERED AT SENIOR OFFICERS MEETING, REPORTEDLY INCLUDING UNIFE SCHOLAR'S ADVOCACY OF NIGERIA'S USING OIL WEAPON. WE AND CONSUL IBADAN WILL ATTEMPT OBTAIN RELEVANT PAPERS AND WILL REPORT FURTHER IF WARRANTED.

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